

Main Street Calumet for Façade Rehabilitation Projects

The rehabilitation of historic structures has played a key role in transforming Calumet. Since 2003, when the village became one of the first four Cool Cities Michigan Main Street communities, Calumet has been undergoing a change. Calumet's commercial building stock reflected the prosperity of the city at the heart of the Upper Peninsula's copper boom. The downtown originally boasted beautiful nineteenth and early twentieth century buildings with style, texture, and color, but through the years the façade had been modified or covered up, resulting in a loss of historic character for the entire downtown area. Main Street Calumet partners with the Calumet Downtown Development Authority, the village of Calumet, the Keweenaw National Historical Park, the Michigan State Housing Development Authority, the State Historic Preservation Office, and property owners to strengthen downtown through a façade improvement program. During the last four years, fifteen façade improvement projects have been completed. Main Street Calumet has encouraged the owners of downtown buildings to rehabilitate their façade and buildings through the use of local and state grants, historic preservation tax credits, and technical assistance. Three of the projects received Façade Improvement of the Year Awards from MSHDA in 2007. The façade improvements along with other Main Street Calumet programs have revitalized downtown.

